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Reaction to Tom Zetterstrom

 While listening to Tom Zetterstrom’s presentation, my view of the natural world changed significantly. Our place in this world is to take care of it and preserve its gifts. The American elm is one prime example. The preservation of the American elm is necessary and we, meaning all Americans should be aware of it. As Zetterstrom presented, the trees don’t only bring environmental benefits, but also add shade and beauty to an area. Not to forget that it represents a historical importance. Massachusetts’ national tree is the American elm, but I never knew that, and it is so gratifying to know that such a tree was one that provided so much beauty and benefits to our society. In the picture of Quinsigamond Community College it was easily noticeable how the lack of trees made those sidewalks look so displeasing. Additionally the picture he showed of a redone parking lot, with Elms planted, made me realize how even small changes to that parking lot made it so much more attractive.

 Zetterstrom’s presentation also informed me how many schools have taken the initiative to make their campuses more attractive, planting different kinds of trees to beauty their schools and community. This not only provides beautification but it also helps the environment, because the more trees we have the more carbon dioxide is converted to oxygen. Zetterstrom made me realize how ignorant I was of the natural world. I really didn’t think about things he was endorsing. But I do now realize how planting trees have some many benefits for our community and our earth. We can beautify our parking lots, provide shade our cars, and reduce the effects of global warming.